

THE  
EARLE  
OF  
STRAFFORDS  
SPEECH ON THE

*Scaffold before he was be-  
headed on Tower-hill, the  
12. of May, 1641.*

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London Printed, 1641.

THE  
EARL

OF

STRAFFORDS  
SPEECH ON THE

Second Petition for a Bill

against the Duke of York

15. Oct. 1641.



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London Printed 1641.

THE  
EARLE OF  
STRAFFORDS  
SPEECH ON  
the SCAFFOLD.



Y Lord Primate of *Ireland*  
(and my Lords, and the  
rest of these Gentlemen)  
it is a very great comfort  
to me, to have your  
Lordship by mee this  
day, in regard I have been  
knowne to you a long  
time, I should be very glad to obtain so much  
silence, as to be heard a few words, but I doubt  
I shall not; my Lord I come hither by the  
good will and pleasure of Almighty God, to  
pay

pay that last debt I owe to sin, which is death, and by the blessing of that God to rise againe through the merits of Christ Jesus to eternall glory : I wish I had been private, that I might have been heard ; My Lord, if I might bee so much beholding to you, that I might use a few words, I should take it for a very great curtesie ; My Lord, I come hitherto to submit to that judgement which hath past against me, I doe it with a very quiet and contented minde, I doe freely forgive all the world, a forgiveness that is not spoken from teeth outward (as they say) but from the heart ; I speake it in the presence of Almighty God, before whom I stand, that there is not so much as a displeasing thought in me arising to any creature, I thanke God I may say truly, and my Conscience beares mee witnessse, that in all my services since I have had the honour to seruel his Majesty in any em-  
ployment, I never had any thing in my heart, but the joynct and individuall prosperity of King and People ; if itt have been my hap to be misconstrued, it is the common portion of us all while we are in this life, the righteous judgement is hereafter, where we are subject to error, and apt to be misjudged one of another ; there is one thing I desire to cleare my selfe of, and I am very confident, I speake it with so much clearenesse, that I hope I shall have your Christian charity in the beliefe of it, I did al-

waies ever thinke the Parliaments of England, were the happiest Constitutions that any Kingdome, or any Nation lived under, and under God the meanes of making King and People happy ; so far have I been from being against Parliaments ; for my death, I here acquit all the world, and pray God heartily to forgive them ; and in particular , my Lord Primate , I am very glad that his Majesty is pleased to conceive me not meriting so severe, and heavy a punishment as the utmost executa-  
tion of this sentence ; I am very glad, and in-  
finitely rejoice in this mercy of his, and be-  
seech God to turne it to him, that he may finde  
mercy when he hath most need of it ; I wish  
this Kingdome all the prosperity and happi-  
nesse in the world : I did it living, and now  
dying it is my wish, I doe now professle it from  
my heart, and doe most humbly recommend it  
unto every man here, and wish every man to  
lay his hand upon his heart, and consider ser-  
iously whether the beginning of the happiness  
of a People should be written in letters of  
Blood, I feare you are in a wrong way , and I  
desire Almighty God that no one drop of my  
Blood may rise up in judgement against you.

( My Lord,) I professle my selfe a true and  
obedient Son to the *Church* of *England*, to that  
*Church* wherein I was borne , and wherein I  
was bred ; *prosperity* and *happinesse*, be ever to

2: And whereas it hath been said that I have  
inclined to Popery, if it be an Objection worth  
answering, let me say truly, that from the time  
since I was one and twenty years of age, till  
this hour, now going upon 49. I never had  
thought in my heart, to doubt of the truth of my  
Religion in *England*: and never any had the  
boldnesse to suggest to me the contrary, to the  
best of my remembrance; and so being recon-  
ciled to the mercies of *Christ Jesus* my Savi-  
our, into whose bosome I hope shortly to be  
gather'd to those eternall happinesses that shal  
never have end. I desire heartily the forgive-  
nesse of every man, both for any rash or unad-  
vised word, or deed, and desire your Prayers:  
And so my Lords farewell, farewell all the  
things of this world, L O R D strengthen my  
faith, give me confidence and assurance in the  
merits of *Christ Jesus*. I desire you that you  
would be silent and joyne in Prayers with me;  
and I trust in G O D that we shall all meet and  
live eternally in Heaven, there to receive the  
accomplishment of all happiness, where every  
teare shall be wiped from our eyes, and every  
sad thought from our hearts: And so God  
blesse this Kingdome, and *Jesus* have mercy up-  
on my Soule.

1. **FINIS.**

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